

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 have been cancelled, and claims 28-56 have been added. No new matter has been entered with this Amendment. Accordingly, claims 28-56 are currently pending in the application of which claims 28, 42 and 56 are independent claims.

Rejections of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 7, 10-12, 16, 19-21 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,292,712 to Bullen ("Bullen").

Claims 4-6, 8, 9, 13-15, 17, 18, 22-24, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bullen in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,138,104 to Marchak, *et al.*, ("Marchak").

As claims 1-27 have been cancelled, Applicant submits all rejections and objections to the claims are moot and should be withdrawn. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Bullen or Marchak 28-56, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest each and every element of the claims as currently presented. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are allowable over the prior art and should be passed to allowance.

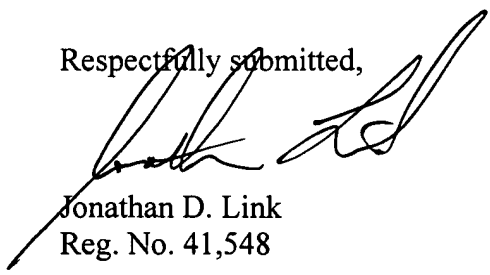
CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated grounds for objection and rejection have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution. Applicant believes that no further fees are due with this reply. Should any fees be due, Applicant authorizes the PTO to charge our Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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